

## THE CITIZEN OF INDIA series

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# Rural Uplift And Welfare

## PART I.

### INTRODUCTORY.

We all know that the prime means of production is the land and the most valuable thing it produces is the food material. The greatest number of the inhabitants of India are, therefore, engaged in this all important profession. But the irony of the situation is that these producers mostly live a hand to mouth life. why is this so, one may ask. One seed sown is multiplied many times when it grows. So in the ordinary course, the cultivators should be very rich people. But they are not so is an undisputed fact. There may be many causes for this unfortunate situation and complicated too and it may not be easy to untangle them. The rule of one place may easily be an exception of the other but broadly speaking the economically precarious

condition of the cultivators may be due to his poverty, ignorance and visitations of irregular weather. The cultivators, therefore, have to be helped and helped in no half hearted way. A bold and comprehensive policy is, therefore, necessary to find remedies for these chronic, deep rooted and very extensive evils.

In order to frame such a policy in outline we should consider the needs of the cultivators as individuals and then as members of the agricultural profession, and lastly, their special needs. We should analyse them to find out what is wrong and then suggest what is possible to be done by way of assistance.

## PART II.

### THE ORDINARY NEEDS OF THE CULTIVATORS.

Briefly put, the needs of the cultivators as human beings are as follows:—

(1) Good Health.

(2) Non-rising food.

( 3 ) Airy Houses, and

( 4 ) Literacy.

Let us take each one of these, one by one.

### (I) GOOD HEALTH.

Good health is as much a necessity for the cultivator as for any living being. He works hard and mostly lives in the open air; therefore, he is hardy, but when he gets ill he has not much of medical assistance within easy reach. He usually remains deprived of the various advantages which the medical science affords to the city-dweller.

Moreover, he has little knowledge of even the ordinary rules that regulate health. So in spite of the good working life he lives and the open country air he enjoys he has very little power of resisting diseases. He easily gives way and very little or no treatment is available where he lives.

A course of assistance in these circumstances appears to be to divide the whole country into separate surgical and medical charges. The major surgical work may well come to the organised hospitals and for local relief in minor surgical cases travelling surgical equipments are desirable. The medical work can then be left to qualified physicians of Ayurved. Their system is congenial to the climate and people of the country. Their dispensations are cheap and they may well be encouraged to open their dispensaries in villages where none exist at present. Gradually the field of their activity shall expand greatly to the relief of the people in the villages.

A word here is necessary regarding maternity work. Expectant mothers in the villages feel as great a horror for trained nurses as most of their sisters in the

towns used to and in some places yet do. Though it would be some long time before the untrained dirty dais are completely done away with but gradual improvement is possible and much can be done in due course in this direction.

If nurses are attached to the travelling surgical dispensaries timely assistance shall be possible to be vouchsafed. The nurses may get into familiarity with villagewomen and win their confidence. They may also give talks, show lantern slides, films or pictures relating to maternity work and thus remove the dread ignorant women feel of civilised methods of assisting childbirth. In this way a beginning is possible to be made to induce village people to secure better health to the possible extent.

In short efforts should be towards

- (1) encouraging villagers to avail themselves of the existing hospitals so that trained



doctors may do major surgical work. These hospitals may be and are being extended and newly opened as finances permit.

- (2) providing travelling outfits so that minor surgical work may be done locally in villages.
- (3) attaching nurses to these travelling units so that village women folk may be given training and sound upto-date maternity work may be explained to them.

## (2) NOURISHING FOOD.

Scientific research in the field of dietetics has shown that a well balanced meal according to the needs of each individual is a prime necessity to maintain the body in a well nourished working condition. But meals are regulated by the productions of

the country and the customs and economic position of each family. A little knowledge of the subject would indicate that bare rice or flour without flesh, fish, or dal does not lead to harmonious physical development. A green vegetable is not always available but when possible would not only give diversity but would also supply much needed salts. A cup of milk, curd or whey would make the meal more nourishing and tasteful. The cultivator leads a hard life and his body requires a fairly good amount of fat, be it in the form of ghee or oil. It would be time before fresh fruit can be introduced in the dietary of the cultivators. But if some day his diet is enriched by a liberal supply of fruits he would thereby be a stronger and better man. A balanced diet can be gradually introduced by occasional lectures to the village folk ( may be by doctors who have retired from active service or

practices and are philanthropically minded ; Their work can be organised by means of an association to be brought into existence for the purpose. This would bring about co-ordination and suggestions for improving the existing conditions.

### (3) AIRY HOUSES.

Houses in the villages of India are kachcha and they are kept very unclean. Cattle are sometimes aggregated in the same place with the human beings which makes the houses more unclean.

In order to provide a healthy house it appears that a house of a particular model may according to the cultivators needs prevailing in each part of the country be raised in each village. This would serve as a specimen for constructions which would induce people to go by the model.

For those who belong to bigger families bigger constructions are necessary but the main principles of healthy houses are not to be permitted to be neglected; one such principle appears to be to have at least one fairly big opening in two different walls of each room of the house. This would save the houses from being ill ventilated.

Another useful provision is that the villagers should be compelled to have some open space between where they live and where they keep cattle and where manure is stacked.

Perhaps one more useful provision may be mentioned here and it is that all drains should be pucca inside the compound of the house and it should be the business of the municipality or panchayat concerned to join each such drain coming from within the house to the common pucca drain of the village which would let the dirty water pass off

to some distance. Such drains inside the house can be kept clean by the inmates while the drains outside should be the business of the municipality or panchayat to be looked to.

One special mention has to be made further and it is about the habit of villagers easing themselves near the habitations. The habit is very old one and difficult to be given up suddenly. Therefore, the municipality or panchayat of each village should build laterines for children and sick persons in each village and the rest should be not only compelled to walk a reasonable distance before sitting down, but systematic trenches should be dug and each person who uses them should be trained to cover the used part with soil. This would take away its moisture and offensive smell and turn the ex creta into good manure in due course

of time. This can be brought within the pale of practical work by the municipality or panchayat making it a point to do as much as possible in this direction and progressing gradually as circumstances permit.

Thus airy houses and clean surroundings can be secured by raising a model hut in each village and by compelling ventilators to be provided for each room. Cattle and manure pits should be kept separate from rooms in human occupation, and pucca drains should be provided by houseowners inside their houses and municipality or panchayat outside them. Trenches should be dug to serve as open air latrines and villagers trained to cover up used part thereof with soil immediately after use.

#### (4) LITERACY

The illiterate cultivator is his own inveterate enemy. He cannot keep his accounts and he is easily and enormously duped.

He cannot read newspapers and mostly remains ignorant of the happenings of the world. He cannot read professional or entertaining books and thus ever remains ignorant and morose. The greatest benefit that can be done to him in this connection is to open schools and start newspapers and periodicals and publish books suited to his needs. He should also be shown special pictures and given special talks on radios to arouse his interest in the progress of the world.

This is a very big problem. Those who care to devote some of their time, energy and money for the real good of the poor villagers will find here an outlet for their philanthropic activities. Retired men, who have got pensions to depend upon, and men of patriotic nature would do well to turn their attention seriously to this kind

of human service. Perhaps the greatest difficulty would be the adult cultivator's aversion to receive any training of the sort but the course of progress never did run smooth and no useful method should be left untouched. As far as the next generation is concerned free primary schools would do the trick but every by-path shall have to be resorted to for adults.

### PART III.

#### THE PROFESSIONAL NEEDS OF THE CULTIVATOR

The needs of the profession can be classified as follows.

5. Land.
6. Forests.
7. Implements of husbandry.
8. Cattle.
9. Fodder.
10. Seeds.



11. Irrigation.
12. Manure.
13. Crop.
14. Transport.
15. Marketing.

It is in connection with meeting these needs that the farmer is most disorganised and requires the greatest help. He works very hard but has not got either the required equipment or the skill or both for his profession. Let us consider the points concerned one by one. -

#### ( 5 ) LAND.

If a farmer has not got a field he is a mere field labourer and has no stake at all in the success of his operations. But if he has one or more he is mostly in possession of a piece or pieces often very small indeed which may be due to caste rules or local

customs. Such small holdings are in no way economically sound. The problem is not easy to solve. The rules of inheritance follow the personal law of the holder and cannot be arbitrarily done away with. As the family becomes more and more subdivided, the holding follows the same fate. Experiments were made to secure consolidation of holdings but it can safely be said that the attempts have not met the success which was claimed and the problem stands almost where it was.

But there is a ray of hope in another direction. A great part of the country's culturable but un-cultivated portion is yet waiting to be useful. It can be parcelled out into suitably big plots and given for cultivation to those who would agree not to sub-divide them. The prosperity of these would open the eyes at least partially

of the older type of villagers and consolidation may gradually come forward in some places. The rest would be possible to be improved in course of time by moral persuasion.

A drastic step would be to take to legislation. There may be a Land Holdings Consolidation Act to do away with the country wide evil and create economic holdings. But it would be optimism to depend on law only to get the needful done.

## ( 6 ) FOREST.

It would not be out of place to consider here the position of the forests in connection with the situation of the cultivators.

Forests in the past were nothing but the spontaneous growth of trees, plants and shrubs in uncared-for lands. Villagers

could go to them without any or with very little restrictions for grazing their cattle or for bringing the fuel; but forests now are the result of development on account of which the free access of the villagers has been brought under control and consequently restricted. This put the villagers to inconvenience. They have to abide by forest rules which divide the forests into 3 classes; ordinary forests, access to which is unrestricted; preserved forests, access to which is regulated by control and reserved forests, the developments of which cannot in any way be permitted to be interfered with.

One point worthy of attention here is that the ordinary forests should be in view of the population they serve extensive enough, otherwise the temptation of the villagers to make cattle dung into *kandās*, thus depriving themselves more and more of good manure is too great to be checked.

Moreover, there is a point which cannot but be mentioned here. However big the areas of the ordinary forests, they are likely to be insufficient for the rapidly growing population. In course of time they again become too small and the object for which they were demarcated stands defeated.

It would be well, therefore, if a scheme is launched to grow rapidly growing trees in the ordinary forests in as great abundance as possible which would keep the villagers well supplied with fuel and fodder.

#### (7) IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY.

The cultivators work with the primitive plough and other implements and consequently their work is slow and not as useful as the modern sciences can make it. Greater capital is necessary for the introduction

of the scientifically advanced implements and the position of the villagers is economically very precarious. So methods have yet to be devised to enable the villagers to raise more food where less is at present being raised. The agricultural industry has to be mechanised. Its advantages are as plain as is the difficulty in taking up the question but there is no other alternative and no palliative or half hearted measure would help.

Gradually improved implements have begun to find their way into the market but it is almost like driving the thin edge of the wedge in. A very long headway is necessary to be worked out in order to bring about a change for the better in the country as a whole.

If the Government were to start a big factory to turn out agricultural imple-

ments on a large scale and then to encourage similar factories in each state, then to give fillip to co-operative societies to take up the trail in each province with an idea to open up as many branches as possible, the change from old to new style can be brought about in course of time. The war-worn tanks rebuilt as tractors are changing the aspect of the situation even though there are hitches in their being generally used. The first is the want of capital, the second is the existing division of the fields into small holdings and the third is the absence of establishments throughout the country for supplying liquid fuel, machine operators and repairers. Unless these things are available wholesale there are difficulties in mechanising the farming industry. But it may be hoped that time will in due course

leaves and stalks and sometimes the green grass but most of the Indian year is dry and in that period nothing but dry grass is available except where artificial feeding is resorted to; so the dry grass is very important to the cultivator but the source of its supply is mostly the barren and uncultivated land near each village. The quality of the grass which grows spontaneously is very poor and the farmer moreover does not know how to preserve it. It is mostly stacked in the open in small bundles. There is always anxiety about keeping it safe from accidents and moreover it loses the major part of its nutritive value by so stacking. The fashion of keeping it in baled bundles has not yet come into practice. The cattle fed on such poor stuff as is at present available cannot be very strong. If co-operative societies are floated to press grass into bundles by



mechanical means it would preserve the nutritive value for a greater length of time and would save the grass from catching fire. Silos are quite useful but very costly and so do not afford a practicable solution.

### ( 10 ) SEEDS.

The villagers being what they are they fail miserably to obtain the best grain for seed purposes. Moreover, what they keep they keep in an unscientific way. If they have to borrow or buy, they get still worse material. The outturn of the crops raised from such seed is naturally poor. In any case they are poorer than what they could be.

It is definite that the Co-operative Societies can again be useful. Well organised co-operative seed societies could by scientific devices make efforts to meet the

remove these hitches and the implements of husbandry will be vastly different from what they are at present.

### ( 8 ) CATTLE.

The cattle to cultivator are as important as his own life but the condition of the cattle is pitiable. They are poorly born and poorly bred, consequently their working capacity cannot be expected to be high. Sometimes better blood cattle are imported but the effort is more often than not sporadic and half hearted. Gradually their breed deteriorates and the need for fresh imports is thus always there. It may well be mentioned here that there is at present practically no attempt to select the rising young calves and bring them up on right lines, in as many villages as possible.

But if co-operative societies are started

to select rising young calves of the right type and arrangements are made to bring them up in the proper way, a good beginning is possible; in this way not only the draft cattle but milking cows also can be made available which would definitely bring about amelioration which is so highly desirable. A bold initiation and vigorous action in each such portion of the country as may be deemed a suitable unit in a particular part of the land would set example to others also. Thus the deterioration which is proceeding apace would be stopped and the country would become rich in strong and useful animals in due course.

In this connection it is necessary to consider the question of the fodder also.

### ( 9 ) FODDER.

The cultivator has the chaff, the green

cultivators' needs in this connection. Really sound and strong grain certified by experts for seed purposes can thus be sealed to avoid adulteration.

Supply of seed can in due course be an industry in itself and though some efforts have been made in this connection, they are equal to nothing as compared with the actual needs of the country.

### ( 11 ) IRRIGATION.

Irrigation is the very life of the cultivators. No doubt one crop a year can be raised in the rainy season without any help from artificial means of irrigation except to tide over gaps in the rain but it is mainly in the winter season that paying crops are raised and this is not possible without irrigation by artificial means. There may be some tracts where rainy season may be so gene-

rous that irrigation may not be necessary for the winter crop but this is not the rule. It is an exception which can be neglected.

Irrigation is of various kinds. Tanks, rivers, canals, and wells serve the purpose of raising the winter crop as and where possible and much sinking of capital is necessary to suitably extend this artificial means of assistance. It is very important that no amount of capital used should be grudged in this connection.

Some work is rightly undertaken by the Government and the rest is left to the private enterprize to come forward but in spite of all that has so far been done it can be said without much fear of contradiction that much yet remains to be done.

The Government is building Bandhs

and canals but there is yet lot of available water which flows away to the sea in the rainy season and leaves the country to pine for water when it is gone. Very extensive works are possible to be raised and though some have been raised, many thousands of reservoirs and canals small and big are waiting to be brought into existence. Moreover, wells in lacs have yet to be sunk, though grant of Taccavi goes a long way in encouraging sinking of wells. A day should come when every useful drop of water may be stored for raising crops. If possible co-operative societies may take the place of private enterprise where it is not forthcoming and furnish finances for undertaking works to supply means for irrigation.

## ( 12 ) MANURES.

Manure means plant food. In the natural

form it is excreta of human beings and animals. There are strict caste rules whereby human excreta becomes a ban. Where it is not so it is a very useful manure after it is treated with dirt and dust and changed into compost. Animal excreta is practically the only general means of rejuvenating plant food in the soil but the villagers are accustomed to dry it and burn it and thus they deprive themselves of very useful plant food. Very few people are accustomed to use artificial manure and their resources for replenishing the exhausted soil of the fields are very limited. The result is poor out-turn and sometimes the fields have to be left fallow and some times rotation of crops is taken recourse to. But with all this the soil after the first few crops are taken is not as rich as it should be in plant food and requires to be heavily treated with useful manure so that the production may be the maximum possible.

Artificial chemical manure has begun to be manufactured in India but in order to supply the whole country with the proper kinds of manures a process shall have to be gone into which is divisible into parts.

The first relates to the examination of the soil and the second to the supply of the sort of manure which would remove the the defect of the field in the plant food required for the sort of crop desired to be raised.

This is very expensive and huge work but it has to be faced. If laboratories are instituted, they would give analyses of the soils 'sent to them for examination and if co-operative manure stores are opened in each district the trouble can be attacked with hope of useful results.

(13) CROPS.

When the cultivator has done what he



possibly can, he can expect a good crop. But he has difficulties in the way. He has to fence his fields and keep them in right repair. He has to watch against the incursions of men and animals. This is inconvenience enough but more than these he has to fight against nature. There are the diseases of the crops and to counteract their effects, highly specialised scientific knowledge is necessary which is hardly available to villagers at present.

Then there are the harmful insects. They are ever keen to undo the labours of the cultivator. Baffled by all these and many more the cultivator hopes to get a crop, which is certainly not the best of its kind but what is possible in the midst of the discouraging circumstances, in which he is living.

Here science can again help but perhaps not as efficiently as in other cir-

cumstances. However as far as it goes it can cure crops diseases and it can render crops immune against the attacks of pests.

A laboratory for experiments and for making tests is desirable which in course of time shall have to stand multiplied to the extent necessary.

The locusts are an inveterate enemy of the crops. When they attack they leave not a green leaf behind. They come in lacs and lacs and if any field is saved it is pure accident. Efforts are being made to destroy their eggs and extirpate the breed but so far there have not been visible results. The poor cultivators stand on their fields and see the fruits of their labour destroyed before their eyes and they are helpless.

(14) TRANSPORT.

The existing method is of taking the

produce to the market on human heads, pack animals or bullock carts. It is too laborious, slow and costly for the times.

If a go-a-head policy is to be adopted a net work of bus services is necessary perhaps under special licenses which would bring the produce from the villages to the nearest markets at a rate fixed for each village. There are cart tracks throughout the country in plains and sandy places and if an organised plan be taken in hand to connect each village in a district to the district Market a suitable and upto-date means of transport would become available.

The plying of this business can be left to the co-operative transport societies or to private enterprise but the main point is that they should not be permitted to charge for the transport of field produce arbitrarily, otherwise they will take advantage of the needs of the culti-

vators when the crops are ready for transport and charge them heavily to the harm of both the cultivators and the country.

### ( 15 ) MARKETING.

The villagers generally being poor men and always in need of money the dealers take advantage of the unfortunate situation and buy the village produce comparatively cheap. This position is possible to avoid if the villagers can have means to wait and sell when the market is favourable.

The main point for consideration herein is the elimination of the profit that goes to the middle man. This is possible if co-operative finance societies take to work for not making profit only but for helping cultivators at the time of their need.

If the cultivators are not short of money when their crops are ripe, they can wait for good time coming when they can get

more money for their produce. This would eliminate the middle man and his profits.

## PART IV.

### SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE CULTIVATORS.

There are yet three outstanding points that deserve special consideration in this connection. They are:—

- (a) The chronic indebtedness of the peasantry.
- (b) Introduction of Subsidiary industries,  
and
- (c) Famine relief.

### ( 16 ) CHRONIC INDEBTEDNESS.

Various methods have been tried but they have failed to keep the cultivators free from running into debt. Co-operative societies have given loans for productive purposes. But the agriculturist would die rather than stop holding customary funeral dinners and making marriage shows which together

with the usurious interest which the creditors charge are mainly responsible for his pitiable condition.

It appears that if multiple purposes societies are organised, one for each village or a small group of small villages and if these societies insist on unproductive expenses being reduced, some effect in the long run would be visible on even the die-hard old heads whose deep sense of responsibility to customs has in the past made them bring about their own ruin. Once however, some headway is made with those who would listen to reason, a change would gradually be brought about which would improve the lot of all. As custom is the accepted guide for illiterate old villagers good things in due course shall begin to be included in custom and herein lies hope for their amelioration.

There is no royal road to free the peasantry from existing indebtedness but the method of trial and error would help. A co-operative credit society can find money if the societies for multiple purposes would undertake to examine cases and recommend to co-operative credit societies how much is to be advanced and then a law may be passed to save the agriculturists from incurring debts in future by providing that such loans will not be subjects of litigation. But we should not forget the established habits of cultivators. They would take loans from whosoever is willing to lend them and they would give very liberal terms. If the money taken on loan is for productive purposes the loan is not so bad. But if it is for unproductive purposes it soon stands exhausted and launches the cultivator into need for taking more loans. If his credit is restricted he pays heavy interest which

further spoils his economic position. There has been a question under fire if he should or should not be authorised to mortgage or otherwise part with his agricultural land to obtain loans. If he is permitted the land will gradually pass away into the hands of the money lenders as it has already done in many places. If he is not permitted, he finds ways of avoiding the embargo and brings himself into worse situations. Either way he is the sufferer. Perhaps a middle course may render some help to him. If he is permitted to part with his agricultural land for a number of years only, at the end of which the loan is to be deemed wiped off, the land would stand restored to him without further payment; in any case this expedient would get him loan and make him part with his agricultural land only for a limited period. It will never pass permanently into the hands



of nonagriculturists. But nothing like this is needed if co-operative credit societies find necessary money for him.

The agriculturist however from the very nature of his profession and his present bad economic position stands in need of loans. He has to be helped not only for productive purposes but for other purposes also. These other purposes can be brought to somewhere near minimum by multiple purposes societies which by using moral persuasion can in due course of time succeed in persuading the villagers to spend less and less on non productive purposes.

#### (17) SUBSIDIARY OCCUPATIONS.

The success of agriculture is mainly dependent on weather and the rains may be precarious or uneven. In cases where nature is very cruel, the position of

villagers becomes helpless and practically there is heavy dislocation in the country. Subsidiary industries are not many and those which are there die away at the time when they are most needed.

It should therefore, be an aim that all agriculturists must have some one or the other of subsidiary industries which may be possible to be introduced. Here again co-operative societies can do a lot. They can save the agriculturists from periodical idleness and at the same time give them a supplementary income, which should be welcome even though it may not be much.

When the agricultural industry receives a setback these subsidiary industries can save the situation from touching the bottom.

( 18 ) FAMINE RELIEF.

The famine is of such frequent occurrence

that its periodical advent has to be reckoned with. It was said in the past that India is a big country and the whole of it cannot be affected by famine. If one part of it suffers some other part can help. Actually the past history of famine administration is based on this one fundamental point. But the economic situation of the world has since the second world war changed and besides the periodic famines due to want of maldistribution of rain in any one part of India there is the problem of countrywide deficiency in food production. This is a big question with very wide tentacles.

Periodical relief work is organised in famine times by the Government. There is moreover, the need to increase production of the food materials to meet the needs of the country. There cannot be any one royal road to secure this blessing but work has to be organised on all fronts e. g.,

- ( 1 ) People have to be educated, no matter what profession they belong to, to take to agriculture as hobby and do some growing of whatever sort possible.
- ( 2 ) Easy small courses of agricultural practice have to be organised to suit the needs and conditions of the millions engaged in the agricultural industry.
- ( 3 ) Encouragements have to be devised for younger generations to take to agriculture in preference to other occupations.
- ( 4 ) Besides agricultural diplomas and degrees for agriculturists agriculture should be one of the subjects for obtaining ordinary non-agricultural diplomas and degrees.

- ( 5 ) Special Universities should be organised to prepare specialists in agriculture who should have chances of remuneration better than in other professions.

These and various other means should be tried to raise the production of food material in the country to suffice for its population and to spare to a reasonable extent.

## PART V.

### CONCLUDING REMARKS.

We have now got a bird's eye view of the pitiable position in which majority of Indian villagers are. This brief survey indicates which way lies the need for help. We have now to consider how this help can be secured.

Looking to the present stage of the

development of the country the ways in which help is possible can be three fold.

The first is the Government. Its help is two fold. The one is the assistance to be rendered in the times of famine and the other is the help to be rendered in normal times. To know a little more about famine a booklet of this series "FAMINE ADMINISTRATION" may be referred to and for normal times there is an Agricultural department and a Co-operative Registrar for each state. What is wanted is action and a will to help the agriculturists many times against others and some times against the agriculturists themselves. It can be hoped that a really sympathetic Government shall always remain busy in improving the lot of cultivators whether it be by legislation, protective interference in his favour or in such other manner as may be possible.

Next to the Governmet self-help is of the greatest assistance. However great may be the good will towards the cultivators they should have the necessary training and the will to take advantage of the sources of amelioration available to them. The cultivators are mostly slaves to custom and as old customs die very hard and new customs take long in coming into existence, so very patient work is necessary in order to teach the cultivators how to live well. Once learnt they would stick to the new custom as they have been sticking to the old. If philanthropists and patriots want to take up real solid work for removing the ills of mankind here would they find work to their hearts' content. Let them map out the country into circles and begin work in right earnest separately in each circle. Co-operation amongst workers can then be brought about by fixing a centre from which directives for work may be issued, which

may also send inspectors whose reports may supply incentive to those who may be lagging behind. Such centres can then be co-ordinated by a Registrar appointed for the purpose.

An organisation like this may well hope to inculcate self-help and bring about desired changes in the condition of the agriculturists.

Then there are the Co-operative societies which can work wonders in this field. Each village or group of small villages may have a multiple purpose society.

The members of this society being people of locality having knowledge of the local circumstances may be presumed to know the real troubles of the villagers. This knowledge will enable them to use their influence in combating the old customs and



encouraging the new good ones and thus bring about a healthier atmosphere for infusing better life. More than that, they can render effective and immediate help by taking action in right earnest in order to get the troubles of the villagers removed. They should be in touch with various societies of departmental nature particularly credit societies and by the use of their good office make available to the agriculturists what they really want. These departmental societies may be of as great a variety as possible.

The basic point is that the situation should be analysed and as found to render relief regarding each one of the points that effect it.

There should be a joint and consolidated effort on all sides to give lift to agriculturists and secure their welfare.

# गांधी अध्ययन केन्द्र

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